GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2481
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2004
INADEQUATE AMBULANCE SERVICE IN HOSPITALS
Meghwal Shri Kailash

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether inadequate facility of ambulances in various major hospitals of the country compel the families of the patients to hire private ambulances/vehicles at arbitrary rates ;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to take any action to fix appropriate rates for private ambulances;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (d): Health being a state subject, it is the responsibility of the respective State Governments to ensure the availability of adequate number of ambulances to cater to the needs of its patients. Central Government provides financial assistance to the State Governments/Union Territories under the Scheme `Assistance for Capacity Building` through the Pilot Project for Upgradation and Strengthening of Emergency Facilities of State Hospitals of Towns/Cities located on the National Highways. Purchase of a well-equipped ambulance is one of the components of the Scheme.

As regards Central Government Hospitals in Delhi are concerned, no inadequacy of ambulance services has been reported.